

What is claimed is:

1. 1. A general purpose test equipment system comprising:
  - 2 hardware having common object request broker architecture software and
  - 3 a mark-up language enabled input connected to the hardware.
1. 2. A system as in claim 1 wherein the mark-up language enabled input is configured for acceptance of a delimited configuration file.
1. 3. A system as in claim 1 wherein the mark-up language comprises XML.
1. 4. A system as in claim 1 wherein the mark-up language comprises SGML.
1. 5. A system as in claim 1 wherein the mark-up language comprises HTML.
1. 6. A system as in claim 1 wherein the mark-up language enabled input comprises a mark-up language reader configured to receive a performance specification document and output a delimited configuration file.
1. 7. A system as in claim 5 wherein the reader selectively outputs a human readable document corresponding to the performance specification document.
1. 8. A system as in claim 5 wherein the performance specification document comprises:

2           an order of test operations to be performed on equipment, wherein the order of test  
3       operations is defined in mark-up language,  
4           a specification of system interfaces for the application of stimulus to and the collection of  
5       measurements from the system during test operations, wherein the specification is defined in  
6       mark-up language,  
7           a specification of units and values to be applied to the equipment during test operations,  
8       wherein the specification is defined in mark-up language,  
9           a specification of units and values to be measured during test operations,  
10          an identification of a test system response to failure, a specification for collection of test  
results, and  
11          a specification for storage of test results.

9. A method of configuring test equipment comprising;  
inputting, in mark-up language format:  
an order of test operations,  
a specification of system interfaces for the application of stimulus to and the collection of  
measurements from the system during test operations  
units and values to be applied to the equipment during test operations,  
units and values to be measured during test operations,  
a test system response to a failure,  
a specification of collection of test results,  
a specification of storage of test results,  
generating a delimited configuration file, dependent upon said inputting; and  
entering the delimited configuration file into test equipment.

10. A method as in claim 9 wherein the mark-up language comprises SGML.

11. A method as in claim 9 wherein the mark-up language comprises XML.

1 12. A method as in claim 9 wherein the mark-up language comprises HTML.

1 13. A method as in claim 9 further comprising generating a human-readable document  
2 dependent upon said entering.

- 1 14. A system of configuring test equipment comprising:
  - 2 means for inputting, in mark-up language format:
    - 3 an order of test operations,
    - 4 a specification of system interfaces for the application of stimulus to and the collection of
    - 5 measurements from the system during test operations
    - 6 units and values to be applied to the equipment during test operations,
    - 7 units and values to be measured during test operations,
    - 8 a test system response to a failure,
    - 9 a specification of collection of test results,
    - 10 a specification of storage of test results,
  - 11 means for generating a delimited configuration file, dependent upon said means for inputting;
  - 12 and
  - 13 means for entering the delimited configuration file into test equipment.
15. A system as in claim 14 wherein the mark-up language comprises SGML.
16. A system as in claim 14 wherein the mark-up language comprises XML.
17. A system as in claim 14 wherein the mark-up language comprises HTML.
18. A system as in claim 14 further comprising means for generating a human-readable document dependent upon said means for entering.